

Linda Canty

Preschool Newsletter

October 1999

The Best Learning is Active Learning

Active learning takes advantage of children's natural desire to move and touch. Young children love to manipulate items and explore new ideas. They enjoy the opportunity to see how things work and to test their own theories.

Active learning takes advantage of children's natural motivations, abilities, and interests. Kids get lots of opportunities to investigate what interests them—to solve problems, discover relationships, and make comparisons.

Children use all their senses to make discoveries: how heavy is it? *does it smell?* *Can I find another one that feels the same?* *What does it sound like when I drop it?* *how is it different from the other items?* Using their hands, eyes, nose, ears, and mouth to explore an item, children gather more information and remember what they learn.

As they interact directly with the environment, children not only gather sensory information, they also refine their senses and motor skills. For example, it takes very refined movement of the hands and fingers to produce the penmanship required for writing. Squeezing clay, picking up puzzle pieces, and lacing threads through beads are ways for young children to practice using hands and fingers.

We organize the classroom environment to promote active learning, and we do lots of things to encourage children to think and talk about their discoveries and creations. The next time you want your child to learn about something, provide the materials, space, and time. Then step back and watch. You will be surprised at how much more the child will discover through active involvement.

Communication Center News

Sharon Mealka is back in the classroom. She is teaching one of the Pre-Kindergarten classes. Heather Games and Carla Meyer are now responsible for the Communication Center in Preschool. Let's welcome them!!

Preschool Fieldtrip

The whole Preschool department spent the day at Oaklandon Park on September 28, 1999. They all had so much fun! They played on the swings and did much more! We will have another fun fieldtrip to Stonycreek Farm on October 21st to pick a pumpkin, see animals, and enjoy a hayride. Everyone is welcome to join us!!

Birthdays of the Month

Samuel Gerbrandt 10/4/97

Kyle Sfira 10/6/94

Dante Paulone 10/8/97

Cody Crace 10/9/96

Colton Crace 10/9/96



Special Announcements

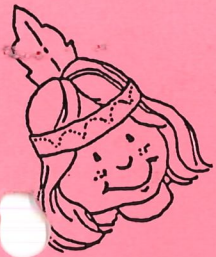
- * The Parent Advisory Council meeting will be held in Room 115 in the Preschool building on Monday, October 11th, from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. Please come and share your ideas with us!
- * We will have the Mother's Luncheon on October 14th on the 2nd floor of the Residence Hall Co-ed Lounge. Please come and enjoy time with your child. It will be fun to see what your child does everyday.

* From Deb Robarge RN, Health Center Director: The Coming of Age organization will provide 1999 flu vaccinations for interested students and staff on Tuesday, October 26 from 2 to 4:00 PM. The flu shot will not be given if you are acutely ill or have an allergy to egg or egg products (especially history of anaphylaxis) or to children less than 3 years old.

If you would like to receive the vaccine, fill out the authorization form, enclose the \$10 and send it to the Health Center by Monday, October 26. Staff may come to the Health Center during the clinic times (between 2-4 pm) and fill out an authorization form at that time. The charge for flu vaccination is \$10 and you can pay with cash or check, made payable to "Coming of Age". The pneumonia vaccine will also be available for a charge of \$20.

Influenza is a viral illness of the respiratory tract, which usually produces fever, chills, cough and muscle soreness. Unlike other common respiratory illnesses, influenza can cause extreme illness lasting several days. Although influenza is most serious when it affects the elderly and chronically ill, it is also of major importance when it affects those who supply vital public needs leading to a significant number of lost work days. If you have any questions about influenza or the vaccination, please contact the Health Center staff at 924-8409 or 1-800-715-5602.





Linda Canty(2)

Preschool Newsletter



November 1999

Focused Portfolio Workshop with Gaye Gronlund, Early Childhood Consultant

On October 21st, the Preschool staff attended a workshop on Focused Portfolio by Gaye Gronlund. Gaye, also, was at the Open House for Preschool Parents on September 29th. A Focused Portfolio is a complete assessment process - careful, yet naturalistic observational anecdotes combined with photos and work samples that informs both family members and teachers about each child's strengths, current challenges and progress that has been made. This leads to individualized goal - setting and classroom planning on forms that Gaye and Bev Engel provide. These forms, used in combination with photographs, work samples and anecdotes, comprise a completed Focused Portfolio set. This whole package enables teachers to be well prepared to conference with family members and discuss each child's growth, development and planned next steps. The teachers are excited about this. This year we are experimenting with the portfolio. A pilot study is being set for two teachers this year. Implementation of the focused portfolio will begin in fall of 2000.

Communication Center Report:

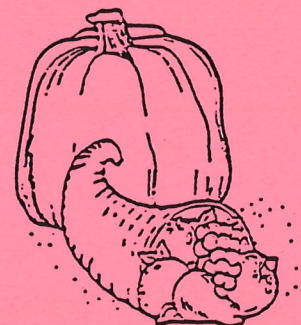
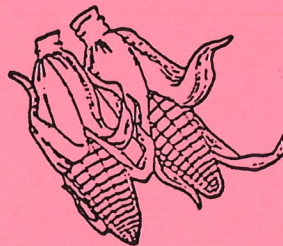
During Communication Center, the children are exposed to music, rhythm, stories (ASL/English) and ASL poetry. October was our first full month working with the children in the Communication Center, so we have been taking time to get to know each of them.

October we had different activities and discussed the "Fall Season", leaves changing colors, and pumpkins, as well as stories and music focused around the fall theme. The children enjoy the musical instruments.

In the afternoons, the children have additional Communication time where we talk about what they are doing at that time: computer, art video they are watching or which activity center they are in. In the mornings, the children receive ASL story time. In the afternoon, the children have the opportunity to have one-on-one story time in Spoken English. Some of the children enjoy retelling their stories to the Communication Center Staff.

November we will be focusing on the "Thanksgiving" theme with books, stories, activities, music and discussions. We enjoy working with the children in the Communication Center and look forward to a year of growth for all of us.

~Heather Games & Carla Meyer, Communication Center aides



Special Announcement:

****The weekly menu will be sent home on Thursdays.**

****On November 15th, there will be Preschool Parent Discussion group on "Cafeteria Food: Part II from 9 to 10:00 am in Preschool Room #115. Please come!**

****On November 18th, Preschool Parent Advisory Council Meeting in Room #115 from 9-10:00a**

****School Picture Retake will be on November 17th, Wednesday. Look out for more information soon in your child's backpack.**

Monthly Special Events

Nov. 13 BIBI Conference for Parents

Nov. 24 Noon Dismissal/Thanksgiving

Birthday

Nov. 30 Elizabeth Nealy



American Disability Act Reports: John Rahn, ISD Maintenance Supervisor, responded to Preschool A.D.A. concerns.

- Handrails on concrete pads that lead to Preschool and Elementary playgrounds:
-We had found a company that can supply these handrails. We have completed the paper work and have submitted to the business office. Cost \$3,816.00
- Electric Operator Doors:
-At this time we will change the southeast door in the Activity room. We are writing up specifications at this time. The cost per door for this is \$2,414.16. We might also be able to change the door to the Health Center and the entrance to Willard Cafeteria. Total cost for three doors \$7,242.49. I believe the original request was for 6 doors for a cost of \$14,485.00.
- Wheelchair Paths:
-To place rubber "KidsSafe Playtiles" on concrete bases the cost is \$700 per 20 feet. To place a compacted fibrous mulch pathway the cost is \$1.52 a foot (this cost does not include the excavation work required. At this time I am sure of all the areas the paths need to go, so I do not have a total cost figure.

☺ Scholastic Book Fairs ☺

Y2K Kids Read!!

Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the Irene Hodock Library from November 8th to 12th. The theme for this year is Y2K Kids Read! More details in the next issue. So, start saving your money. Thanks! Linda Canty, Librarian.

Preschool Newsletter

December 1999



A Book of One's Own

Children are more likely to become avid readers if they have a few books of their own. There is a special pleasure – even for a young child – in being able to go to their own bookshelf and browse through favorite books.

Books can be expensive, though, especially if they are new and hardback. Paperback and used books are much less expensive yet just as cherished. Quality children's books, at very reasonable prices, often can be found at half-price bookstores, yard sales, thrift shops, or public library book sales. Take your time browsing and be choosy. The cost savings are worth the time it takes to look for good books.

Books make wonderful gifts. Tell grandparents and others that you welcome gifts of storybooks. And remember that when you buy a book for your child and read it together, you are laying a strong foundation for the child's lifelong learning.

Communication Center News

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving weekend. Welcome back to school. December will be a short month due to Holiday/winter vacation beginning on Friday, Dec. 17th

During Communication Center, we will continue to focus on ASL stories, Spoken English stories, several activities & music/movement. The children have the opportunity in the afternoons for one-on-one story time or one-on-one activity time within their classroom.

We will be talking about changes in the weather, different clothing & shoes we need for cold or snowy days. And if lucky enough, we will start talking about snow and things we can build in snow. (But only if we get some snow, if not we will discuss that in January) Most of the children have received their earmolds and are experiencing with amplification. We will continue to use their aids during communication center time. ~Carla Meyer

Student Birthday

Grant Henry	Dec. 3
Jeremy Nowakoski	Dec. 15
Emma Baldanado	Dec. 29

Special Event

Dec. 16 Connie Jones and Angi Casler's classes will go to Children Museum.



Parent Advisory Council Meeting

We had a meeting last November 15 at Preschool building. We had discussed some items:

1. Closeness of the preschool tables-students and staff are unable to freely move back and forth when all are seated. Response: Reviewed the background of the table placement and table heights. Originally, PT wanted certain students with spinal problems to sit with their feet flat on the floor. Tables were adjusted accordingly for all. Since this time, the tables have been up and down in height and arranged in numerous configurations. And in the past, both sides of the cafeteria have been used for Preschool lunchtime. There were complaints about this not allowing the students to eat together. So, all students were moved to the same side. Also, tables cannot be removed to make more room since the elementary students and staff utilizes them all at lunchtime and on early dismissal days.
2. Are there any violations of the fire code with the current table placement? Response: According to the square footage in Willard Cafeteria, the seating capacity is 140. Currently, there are 138 chairs and 10 high chairs of which all are not used at the same time. Also, since we are not blocking any exits, they are no violations occurring.
3. Recommendations to review the cafeteria policies and procedures with the Preschool staff at the beginning of the school year to help avoid confusion and misunderstanding. Response: Contact has been made with Louise Fitzpatrick to arrange a meeting time with her staff to review the cafeteria procedures. Plans are to make it a beginning of the year review.
4. Cafeteria workers who are discussing job duties or giving directives are being too loud during the meal service- not everyone is deaf. Response: Above issue will be discussed with the Willard cafeteria employees, and more appropriate behaviors will be reviewed.
5. Suggested items for discussion at the next PAC meeting are:
 - Removal of unnecessary or unused high chairs to another room outside of the cafeteria.
 - Rearranging the tables vs. leaving the tables as they are.
 - For the Preschool lunch meal, students and staff are not arriving and leaving the cafeteria in a timely manner, ie. (According to the meal schedule). So there is not sufficient clean up time for the Dietary employees to clean up before the second seating. This leaves the cafeteria in disarray for the next meal.

Preschool Parent Advisory Council Meeting on Monthly Dates

All meeting will be held in Preschool building Room #115.

December 16th at 9:00 am

January 13th at 9:00 am

February (No PAC meeting)

March 16th at 9:00 am

April 13th at 9:00 am

May 11th at 9:00 am

Tammy Hossler is your 1999-2000 PAC Chair for the whole school. Her phone number is 823-5191.

Special Announcements:

* Darren Chittick is a new contract worker in Preschool with Sharon Mealka. Please welcome him!

* Family Discussion Group in Preschool Room #115 starts on January 18th.

* Parent Volunteers Meeting meet Mondays at 9:00 am in Preschool Parent Room #105

ISD Sibling Workshop

When: January 22nd

Time: 10 am to 2 pm

Where: MPR Preschool Building 1

For: Ages 8 through 13 years old

Please RSVP before January 14th to Diane Hazel Jones, FRC. Thank you.



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January

Preschool Newsletter

ISD 2000: A challenge for all people in the new millennium is to ask ourselves what we can do to change the world and make the world a better place to live. A similar challenge will be issued for all students, parents and staff at ISD for the year 2000. Boards will be posted on campus asking each one of you to make a promise of doing or giving something that will make ISD a better school for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students and parents, and ISD a better place for the staff to work. Feel free to write down yours near supervising teacher's office. You will see a box posted on the bulletin board.

Preschool Activity: During the "Millennium Celebration Week", January 3-7, 2000, the students in the Preschool program will be creating works of art which will be displayed for viewing pleasure. Students' art activities will be placed in time capsules for future enjoyment.

Communication Center News: Welcome back to school. Hope everyone had enjoyable holiday vacation. Week of January 3rd each class will be working on their own time capsules for communication center. We will be talking about the items for their time capsule. Starting Jan. 10th, we will be working on our winter theme, winter clothing, snow, snowman, and animals that live in cold snow. We will have music & movement, ASL stories & Spoken English to go with our winter theme. We will continue to offer amplification to those students with ear molds. Wishing everyone a happy and safe January. Enjoy the snow with your child/children. ~Carla Meyer, Communication Center

Announcement: Colin Bursdall in Nursery School just has a new baby sister named Natalie, weigh 8 lbs and 11 oz and 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Born on January 4th at 2:42 pm to Monica and Tim Bursdall. Congratulations!!

Student Birthday

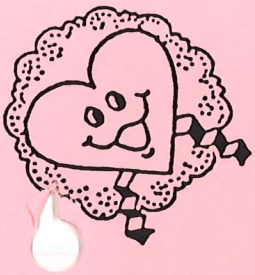
Tyler Cundiff Jan. 14

Special Event

Jan. 13: Parent Advisory Council Meeting in
Room #115, Preschool

Jan. 18: Family Discussion Group "Language
In Preschool" at 9-10:00 am in Preschool
Room #115

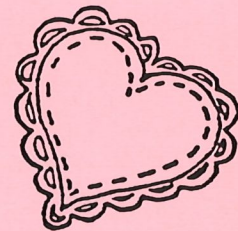




February

Preschool Newsletter

Linda Canty (2)



Write Before Your Child's Eyes

Children learn about writing by observing people who already know how and by participating with those people in simple writing experiences. Parents and older siblings serve as models for children, showing them what writers do.

Kids are more likely to want to communicate in writing if they grow up in a home where they often see people writing. The more they see you writing, the more inclined they are to want to write.

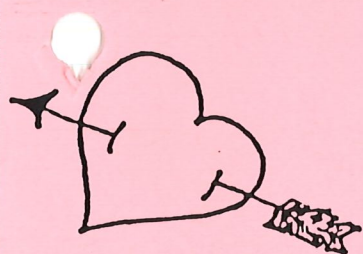
As children begin "writing," they may use drawing, scribbling, or invented letters and spellings to express themselves. These are legitimate forms of early writing and to be encouraged!

Share your writing tasks with children. For example, include your child when you write out the weekly grocery list or jot down a reminder to yourself or another family member. And get the child to help with writing party invitations, thank-you notes, and cards or letters to relatives and friends.

When you have writing tasks to do, even something as humdrum as your to-do list, try to get in the habit of doing them when your child is around. Before you know it, you'll have an eager writer on your hands.

Communication Center

It is hard to believe January is already over. Last month was a very exciting month; we had our ASL and English stories, music, rhythm, parades, movement, and lots of fun playing in snow. As well as, the New Millennium celebration week, Student Talent Show, and a special visit with a Deaf Mime. During the Communication Center in February, we will be talking about family and friends, Valentine's Day, and start talking about different animals that live and play in cold climates and snow. We will have fun playing and talking about snow ourselves. As always, the children will have the opportunity to experience and use amplification during Communication Center. As well as music, rhythm, ASL and English stories. There is a deaf woman interested in the ASL/Deaf portion of the Communication Center, we are very excited, and as soon as possible we will send out the information introducing and welcoming her to Preschool and Communication Center.



Be sure to build a snowman with your child, have fun talking to your child about your snowman. ~Carla Meyer

Stellar News! Stellar News!

The Stellar Cellar no longer accepts clothing. We are adding new items to the store. Come take a look. We are located in the main building (6), in the basement. The room number is 644. The Stellar Cellar will have affordable Valentine's gifts in everyone's price range. Students and adults alike will be able to take advantage of our special gifts. Keep an eye out for special sale information.

Special Events

Feb. 14: Valentine's Day Party

Feb. 17: Father's Luncheon

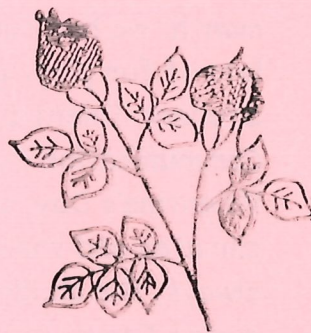
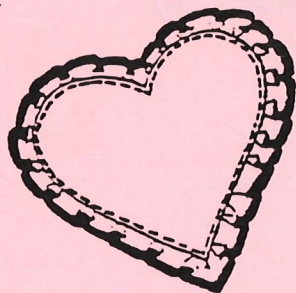
Student Birthday


Feb. 11: Fallon McWilliams

Feb. 27: Jake Russell

Preschool T-shirt Sale

Are you interested to buy our COOL T-shirt? We have some left over from last year and want to get rid of them. We have size S, M, (L is out), XL, XXL, XXXL. S and M cost \$12.00 and XL-XXXL cost \$13.00. The front says "ISD" with children around it. The back says, "Little People Color the World!" around the Earth with Bilingual & Bicultural Indiana Deaf School. Please come and take a look and buy them! Support our Preschool Department!





March 2000

Preschool Newsletter

Aggressiveness in Children

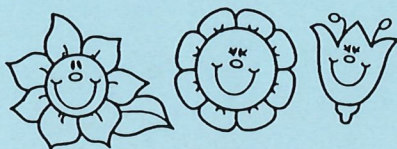
Children who have not learned to control anger or frustration often resort to aggressive behavior. Aggression is a normal expression of emotion in young children. They have not yet learned acceptable ways to channel their anger. Aggressive behavior includes hitting, throwing things, name-calling, spitting, biting, pushing or pulling, forcing someone to do or not do something, destroying property, and taking someone else's possessions.

Our program recognizes the importance of dealing with aggressive behavior. Teachers help children find acceptable ways to express their anger, negotiate to get what they want or need, and handle aggression directed toward them by peers. We encourage children to express their feelings in words and to negotiate resolutions to conflict. We facilitate conversations between children when problems arise. Sometimes we even suggest words that help communicate the children's feelings. In time, with adult support, they are able to use these social skills to solve their own problems.

At home, when your child behaves aggressively, try redirecting his or her attention by offering a choice of other activities. Emphasize words rather than actions. With time and practice, a child will learn to say, "I'm mad because I want to play with the truck," instead of lashing out. As adults, we can help children learn to express negative emotional in more appropriate ways. And a positive attitude on our part is the best teacher.

Communication Center News

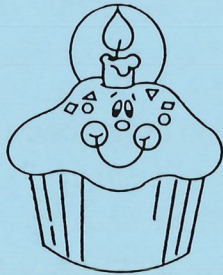
February sure went by fast. For Valentine's we had fun talking about friends & families sharing & caring for each other. March, we will be playing a game matching animal names to the way they walk ie. Deer-leap, mice-creep, worms-wiggle, bugs-jiggle, to boy and girls walk. It is a cute rhyming game. Week of March 13-17, we will be using the color green for Patrick's Day. As in the past, we will continue to offer and use amplification with the children that have aids/molds. Any questions or comments, you can reach me through Aimee Bippus or Deb Liebrich, or send a note with your child and your child's teacher will pass it on to me. ~Carla Meyer



Student Birthday

March 13: Trynton Williamson

March 26: Kylie Crohn



Preschool Events

March 8: Preschool/Elem. Playground Committee meeting at 9:00 am in Preschool Room #115

March 9: C. Reynolds' class will have a fieldtrip to Chuck E Cheese

March 16: Preschool Parent Advisory Council meeting at 9:00 am in Preschool Room #115

March 29: D. Battiste, A. Casler & C. Jones' classes will have a fieldtrip to Chuck E Cheese

April 3-7: ISD Spring Break

Special Announcements:

***Indiana Chapter of RID invites you to an Adult ASL Immersion Experience "Camp ASR" Annual Spring Retreat on March 31 and April 1, 2000. Location: ISD No children. For more information contact: Diane Hazel Jones, Outreach Department, ISD 1-317-924-8418 or 1-800-722-6166

ASL Immersion Camp for Families and Staff

March 18, Saturday at Coed Lounge

12-1:00 pm Pizza Lunch

1-2:00 pm Fingerspelling in ASL

2-3:00 pm Classifiers in ASL

3-4:00 pm Noun-Verb Agreement

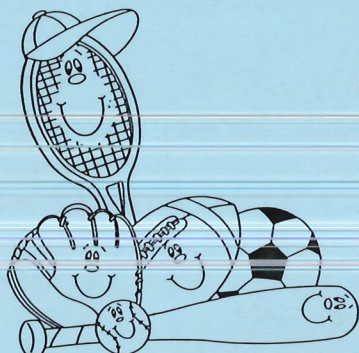


Activities for children

To RSVP, contact Diane Hazel Jones, Outreach Department

1-317-924-8418 or 1-800-722-6166 (Must have at least 10 participants)

-Presenters: Gary Mowl, Wendy Whiting, Bonnie Pillans, Beatrice Pfaff and Shari Kido



FUN!

FUN!

FUN!

Fisher S.P.O.R.T.S. Soccer League Age 5 by 7-1-00

Sign up by March 5th (deadline) if interested

Call 845-5582 and the cost is \$35.00

Can get a sign up forms at Fishers Library



February 23,2000

Playground Committee Minutes

In attendance - Jenny Foster- Preschool Parent
David Geeslin - Elementary Supervising Teacher
Sandy Hakes - Elementary Teacher
Gina Imhausen - Preschool Parent
Marta Laubenstein - Preschool Parent
Mike Paulone - Preschool Physical Education Teacher
Beth Slaven - Preschool Parent

The playground committee is currently in the information gathering stages.

Inspection of Current Playgrounds

Larry Reed, who is a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) visited ISD and observed the playgrounds for the elementary and preschool areas. He is currently writing a report. His report should be ready by March 1. It was decided that another CPSI, who is not associated with any equipment company, visit ISD to observe the elementary and preschool playgrounds. Leslie Piper a neutral CPSI with nursing experience, has agreed to visit the school and inspect the playgrounds.

What do we Need?

The committee had a brainstorming session to discuss the needs of this playground.
It is important that the play equipment be accessible to children with a variety of physical needs. Children in wheelchairs or children with leg braces should not be sitting on the sidelines watching.
There needs to be a variety of swings to accommodate children of different sizes and physical needs.
Children need access to climbing equipment with a safe surfacing underneath.
There was discussion of building a bicycle track around the elementary area and new bicycles should be purchased.
A new shed should be built to store extra equipment.
Age groups should be separated, 18months-2 years, 3 - 5 years, 6 years and up, with age appropriate equipment.
The playground should be used for more than just recess. Is it possible to open the playground during the summer months for families to meet with their children?
With the right surfacing, children would be able to play outside when the ground is wet.
Children with asthma or allergies should be taken into consideration when deciding on surfacing.

Concerns / Comments

We hope to know more about board funding by April 1, 2000.
Found a non profit organization "Boundless Playgrounds" that will help with planning, designing and fund raising for 5% of the playgrounds total budget.
When initial playground plans are complete, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Teachers and Maintenance staff need to be consulted for concerns and opinions.

To Do List

Take pictures of well done playgrounds.

Next Meeting

Next meeting date is Wednesday March 8 at 9:00am in preschool room #115.
Plan to review catalogs for best equipment and surfacing that meet playground needs.



APRIL 2000

Preschool Newsletter

Helping Children Cope with Stress

Any Major change in a child's life can cause stress. Common sources of stress are the birth of a new sibling or the divorce of parents. Stress also can be caused by the death of a relative or a beloved pet, a family move, separation from parents for extended periods, pressure to succeed, overly strict discipline, and natural disasters (even when the child has only seen them on television).

Not all stress can, or should, be avoided. Young children do not view the world as adults do. Misunderstandings or feelings of confusion can build up and leave children with stress they cannot handle alone. Young children cannot easily verbalize these feelings, so we adults must be aware of physical or behavioral changes: loss of appetite, sleep troubles, nightmares, headaches, stomachaches, or regressive behaviors such as thumbsucking.

Children often deal with stress through their play. They may act out events they find disturbing. One child may re-create an airplane crash after hearing about a real airline accident. Another may use dolls to have a conversation about divorce. This type of play helps children cope with events and feelings that might otherwise be overwhelming.

Adults play an important role in helping children cope with stress by providing a supportive atmosphere in which to talk about or play out concerns. We need to acknowledge and accept the feelings children express and give them our support, at home and at school. An attitude of love, understanding, and acceptance helps children get through difficult times.

Communication Center News

Springtime is finally here. During the months of April and May we will be having lessons, stories and hands-on activities that involves springtime and weather. This week, we are planting flower seeds. The flowers will be sent home during the month of May. You know that old saying, "April showers bring May flowers". All information about the flowers will be sent home with the flowers.

The children are enjoying Communication Center as part of their school learning centers. We will continue with ASL, Gestures, Spoken English, drama, music and movement as well as offering and using amplification with those students who have personal aides and/or ear molds. Now that the weather is nice, we will be having more outside parades and walks to see the different signs of springtime. There will be no school on Monday, April 24th. Wishing you all a wonderful long Easter/Spring weekend. ~Carla Meyer



Student Birthday

April 7: Jermain Douglas

April 23: Brett Clark

April 23: Aubrey Steele

April 29: Austin Phillips

April 29: Zack Kremer



Special Events

May 7: PTCO

May 15: Preschool Orientation Day
with Diana, Connie, & Angi

May 18: Preschool Orientation Day
with Sharon and Cami



Special Announcements:

☺ David Katter, Nursery School, has a new baby brother named Jonathan Douglas Katter. He was born at 4:59 a.m. on March 2, 2000. Welcome!

☺ Darrick Dubois and Kristy Reeves are our new contract workers in Preschool with Connie Jones and Sharon Mealka.

☺ Eddie King is a new Communication Center for ASL Literacy in Preschool.

MAY 2000

Preschool Newsletter

Summer Time is Here Soon!

Vacations are an opportunity to build a sense of family togetherness without the pressures of everyday life. Where the family goes and how long the stay is not important, but the best vacations are planned around the interests and the developmental levels of children.

When planning a trip with young children, remember that they need and like routine. A family should keep naptime, mealtimes, and bedtimes as close to the normal routine as possible. It also helps when the itinerary is discussed so that kids know what to expect.

The family that travels with preschoolers should consider this age group's self-centeredness, short attention span, and need for movement. Children at age 3 or 4 make good travelers, though. They enjoy physical activity, quiet playtime, arts and crafts, and most of what parents suggest. They also enjoy exploring and talking about their observations and experiences.

Traveling with this age group does present some challenges. A survival kit helps minimize irritability and crankiness during long hours of driving. Pack healthy snacks, storybooks, crayons, markers, paper, games, and a tape player and tapes.

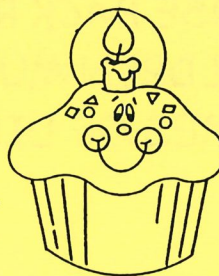
By preplanning your vacation, ensuring some routine, yet allowing for flexibility, everyone in your family can enjoy the adventure.

Special Events

- May 7: PTCO
- May 11: Cynthia's class fieldtrip to Oaklandon Park
- May 11: Connie & Angi's classes fieldtrip to Me's Zoo
- May 15: Preschool Orientation Day with Diana, Connie, & Angi
- May 16: Diane's class fieldtrip to Zoo
- May 18: Kindergarten Orientation Day with Sharon and Cami
- May 18: Angi & Connie's classes fieldtrip to Holliday Park
- May 24: 500 Race Day
- May 25: Pre-K Graduation at 9:30 a.m.

Student Birthday

- June 12: Dylan Lesti
- June 19: David Katter
- June 20: Latisha Snell
- July 9: Emily Imhausen
- July 18: Aileen Slinkard
- July 18: Amy Laubenstein
- July 29: Joseph Chen
- Aug. 8: Sarah Margolis-G.
- Aug. 12: Annastasia Lewis
- Aug. 29: Kenneth Peters



School Year 2000-2001

August 7-11, 2000	Staff In-service
August 13, 2000	Registration Day
August 21, 2000	Preschool Classes begin
September 11, 2000	Preschool CODA/SODA Program begin
October 26-27, 2000	Professional Days
November 22, 2000	Thanksgiving Break
December 22, 2000	Winter Holiday Break
January 8, 2001	Classes Resume
February 19, 2001	Winter Break
April 2-6, 2001	Spring Break
May 10, 2000	Last Day CODA/SODA Program
May 17, 2000	Pre-Kindergarten Graduation & Last Day for All
May 18, 2001	HS Graduation (tentative)
May 24, 2001	Last Student Day
May 25, 2001	Last Staff Day



Summer Play Group



Interested? Call or Email: Brook & Myk Olson
(Parents of Mercedes, age 4)

765-483-09/ASLMOM@hotmail.com

LET'S TAKE OUR LITTLE ONES TO THE:

- PARK
- SWIMMING
- PICNIC
- CHUCK 'E CHEESE
- HORSE BACK RIDING
- CHILDREN MUSEUM
- HOMES OF DIFFERENT INTERESTED PARENTS



Preschool Newsletter

September 2000

Supervising Teacher's Corner:

Welcome to the 2000-01 school year! We look forward to another great year of growing together. "Together" is the keyword because we can't provide a quality program for your child unless you're a part of our team. As they say, "It takes a village to raise a child". You can begin to work with us by knowing the goals we will be striving to achieve this year:

Communication – Keeping lines of communication open and effective.

We want to know how best to meet your needs and expectations. Feel free to call, stop by or write a note to let us know how we're doing.

Assessment – Using "Focused Portfolios" to assess our students progress this year.

Teachers and aides will be documenting your child's progress through observation, photos, gathered work samples (art, writing, etc) and meeting with you in January and May to discuss your child's growth and development. At each conference, you will participate in developing future goals for your child.

Teamwork – Working together.

We can't emphasize this enough! We want to improve our ability to achieve success through teaching teams, parent-teacher partners and bridging the transition from pre-kindergarten to kindergarten. Please make every effort possible to join us in this endeavor.

Diana Battiste
Interim Supervising Teacher
317.920.6261
dbattiste@isfd.in.state.us

Parent Advisory Committee:

PAC will be meeting monthly to address issues related to improving our school and program. Beth Slaven, mother of Jennifer, is our Parent Representative this year. If you are unable to attend the scheduled meetings, Beth will share your comments or questions for you. Contact Beth by phone, email or a written note sent to school with your child. Beth's phone number is 317.915.1385. Her email address is The_Slaves@msn.com

Welcome:

To all our new students and their families.

Danielle Smith
Lance Wood
Christian Jacobs
Bailey Rifkind
Andrew Morris
Monique Johnson
Catherine Hearn
Robert Lewis
Jason Bell

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 30th: **New Family Orientation**
9:00 am at ISD Library

ISD Homecoming football game against Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD) at 2:00 pm. Come and show your support!

Oct. 2nd:

Deaf Heritage Day:
*Ice Cream Party for Preschool at Willard Cafeteria at 11:15 am
*Elementary Parade through Preschool from 1-1:15 pm.
*Cupcakes will be given at 2:30 pm.



Preschool Newsletter

November 2000

BiBi is alive and well in Preschool...

The October 26th Preschool Open House was proof of that! Deaf and hearing families coming together to learn more about the bilingual-bicultural education offered in Preschool for their Deaf *and* hearing children. It was a great opportunity for parents to see how the Deaf child's empowerment process begins during these critical years at ISD.

Preschool staff explained how they foster the BiBi process by encouraging the children to:

- Make choices as they explore the classroom Learning Centers

- Play and use ASL with hearing siblings and Deaf friends

- See ASL translated into English and English translated into ASL

- Begin literacy skills in both ASL and English (reading and writing)

- Choose to communicate in a variety of ways

- Interact with a various ASL users including parent and ISD high school volunteers, Ball State University participants, Deaf and hearing staff and visitors

- Invite their family members to attend annual functions such as Mother/Father Luncheons and Grandparent's Day.

- See TTY's in every classroom making parent/staff communication easily accessible

- Participate in cultural events at ISD such as Homecoming, PTCO Day, Deaf Heritage Week, and sporting events.

Bob Kovatch, Principal, and Diane Hazel Jones, Family Resource Coordinator, were also on hand to welcome families and answer any questions related to the school-wide program. Packets of information regarding the ISD Preschool were made available to all families whether or not they were able to attend.

For those families were unable to attend Open House, please feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions or comments.

Facilitating Outdoor/Indoor Active Play Workshop

November 3rd, Preschool and several Elementary staff attended a workshop at ISD on "Facilitating Outdoor/Indoor Active Play" lead by Gaye Gronlund, Early Childhood consultant. Ms. Gronlund has been working with the staff for the last two years conducting workshops to support The Creative Curriculum currently being used in Preschool. Ms. Gronlund was also the guest speaker at last year's Preschool Open House helping parents understand how academic learning occurs through play in well-designed classroom learning centers.

Friday's workshop included observing students at recess, evaluating our observations and playground usage, and recommendations for effective playgrounds. Information gained at this workshop will be beneficial as we continue to plan for safe, accessible playgrounds at ISD.

Thank you,

Diana Battiste
Interim Supervising Teacher
317.920.6261
dbattiste@isfd.state.in.us

Preschool T-Shirt Sale

Preschool will be selling t-shirts again for a fundraiser. (We have some shirts left from last year!) Small – xlarge cost \$10.00 and xxlarge \$12.00. See Secretary Aimee Bippus in Room #103 to get your t-shirt TODAY! Funds will be used to buy outdoor play equipment.



All Children Have A Right to Play

Please help PTCO build accessible playgrounds. PTCO is asking for donations. We need new or gently used children's / teenager's items for a future holiday sale (similar to a garage sale). Money earned will be given to the preschool/elementary playground fund.

Drop Off Locations:

- Alumni Hall Room #119 (PTCO and Outreach Office)
- Preschool Building Room #103 (Preschool Secretary Office)

Last day for donation drop off is Wednesday, Nov. 15th. Thanks to all who have already donated. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Nov. 7 | Visitors from Switzerland to observe Preschool 8-12:00 |
| Nov. 13 | Parent Advisory Council meeting 3:30-5:30 |
| Nov. 16 | Mother's Day Luncheon from 8:00 to 12:00 |
| | Playground Committee Meeting 3:15 to 4:15 |
| | Mr. & Ms. ISD Teen Pageant at 6:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 22 | Students dismissed at 12:30 for Thanksgiving Break |
| Nov. 27 | The annual Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the Alumni Hall library until Dec. 5 th from 8:30 to 2:30 pm daily. |

